

Opposition plan unfeasible

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Opposition making promises on tolls which will cause hefty financial burden, warns minister

BUTTERWORTH: The opposition's pledge to abolish toll is not feasible and would cause a hefty financial burden which may even force the government into bankruptcy.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop said the opposition would have to "break the bank" to pay compensation to expressway concessionaires, creating a massive debt for the government.

"The fundamental question is where they are going to find the money to pay the compensation. If they do not have enough funds, they will have to borrow from outsiders.

"When they secure the loan, who is going to pay the debt?" he asked after handing over Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia (BR1M) vouchers worth RM500 each to 623 recipients in Taman Tun Dr Awang, near here, yesterday.

During the Pakatan Rakyat Convention in Alor Star on Saturday, DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said that toll fares for expressway concessionaires, who were making big profits would be abolished if the opposition came to power.

Lim, who is also Penang chief minister, said highway concessionaires who were not making profits, would be spared from the plan.

The opposition had pledged that they would review existing expressway concessionaire agreements and abolish toll fares within seven years after forming the new Federal Government.

Meanwhile, state Umno chief Datuk Zainal Abidin Osman said the people were smart enough and could judge for themselves which party had been serving them sincerely over the last four years.

"The people also know who have been hoodwinking them all this time."

Zainal said Lim should stop making promises which he could not fulfil. "It is not right for him to make one promise after another without fulfilling them.

"The Sungai Nyior toll abolition is one example.

"There are many, many more."

Parti Cinta Malaysia vice-president Huan Cheng Guan said he had in his possession newspaper cuttings where DAP had announced that they would abolish the Sungai Nyior toll prior to winning the last general election.

He added that it had been four years since Lim came to power and until now, the Sungai Nyior toll issue remained unresolved.

"Now he is trying to con the people again.

"He is saying that they will abolish all highway tolls if they came to power. Lim must deliver on his promise first before making another one and stop all his spin doctoring games."

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